Docket No.: 211381US0CONT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Mikio TAKAIWA et al.

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as shown in the marked-up copy following this amendment.

Page 1, before line 1, please insert

on April 6, 2000, now pending, which is a 371 of PCT/JP98/04528, filed October 7, 1997

Page 48 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please insert the attached substitute Sequence Listing.

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following paragraph: